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Festivalgoers catch country fever

Long Beach Folk Revival Festival provides a good ol' time.

By Trevor Becker
Contributing Writer

The Long Beach Folk Revival Festival transformed Rainbow Lagoon Park into a boot-stomping hoedown on Saturday. The haystacks, cowboy hats, country twang and bluegrass jam sessions made attendees feel as if they were somewhere deep in the Heartland instead of the California coast.

Thousands attended: a herd of mustachioed men, hipster cowgirls, banjo pickers and a slew of families danced at three different stages, scoped out vintage chic at vender booths between sets and those of age filled their plastic cups with craft brew. While it's called a folk revival festival, the music meshed together many types of Americana, including rhythm and blues, country and rock n' roll.

Concertgoers seeking more mellow acoustic sets headed for the festival's Showcase Stage where lesser-known musicians played to a small and intimate crowd. One of them was solo female artist Jamie Wyatt, whose lyrics resemble Johnny Cash's rawness.

"Being on the road a lot, playing honky-tonk bars [and] meeting tons of self-made people" has influenced her songwriting, Wyatt said.

Local band Sawtooth, playing for the third year in a row, took advantage of the home field and sang songs about Long Beach. It was the first Folk Revival Fest for Nikki Cole, the newest member of the 6-person string band.



Photos by Kevin Flores | Daily 49er

Local band Bearcoon vivaciously perform at the Long Beach Folk Revival Festival on Saturday.

"The folk scene seems to really be thriving here in Long Beach," Cole said. "The folk jams at the Red Leprechaun Thursday nights are packed."

Better-known artists that incorporated a more amplified sound played the Bose Stage, such as traditional folk band The Haunted Windchimes who travelled from Colorado.

"The folk scene is fun over here in California," said Matt Clark, singer, banjo and harmonica player for The Haunted Windchimes. "The only difference is that Colorado has a lot more shredders... A lot of people can really pick a banjo in Colorado."

Around midday, a dozen hungry people competed in a Polly's Pie eating contest on the main stage. The winner of the contest, Matt Jackson, said he wasn't planning on joining the ruthless competition, but saw that the competitors were all children and figured he could win.

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He's My Brother, She's My Sister perform at the Long Beach Revival Festival.

Past and present president's scholars address potential changes

Lack of funding might bring changes to the 20-year old program.

By Greg Diaz
Editor-in-Chief

University President Jane Conoley told past and present president's scholars on Friday that the program will most likely have to change in order to address the funding and organizational concerns of the university.

"When I arrived ... I started going through all the budgets, and I realized that in three years [the program will be] out of money to do what we're doing now," Conoley said. "Does that mean we won't raise more money? We might."

Around 50 students, former students and parents came together at a town hall meeting in the Anatol Center to tell Conoley about what the President's Scholars Program has done for students and why they hope that it can remain in its current form.

Jan Schum, the parent of a junior in the program, spoke about how long her daughter had her sights set on being a president's scholar.

"She was exposed to the program in sixth grade and put her sights on this as a special program," Schum said. "An opportunity to really rise above. And I see that in her, I see that in her dorm mates, and the people in this room, and that's where I don't want to see this [program] diluted."

The program was originally established in the fall of 1995 by former CSULB president Robert Maxson. The goal at the time was to try and attract some of the top students in California to CSULB. Conoley said this goal has been achieved.

"We don't have that problem anymore, we do have other problems," Conoley said. "Part of the re-envisioning is not to dilute president's scholars, we'll probably still have 20, 30 president's scholars, or we'll have 10, or we'll have 5, depending on whether or not we are able to raise money. The problem I see for us now is that we have lots of high-achieving students."

President's scholars discussed a rumored proposal to fold the program in with the university's Honors program. A few students at the meeting said that they had been in both programs, but dropped out of the Honors program be-

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CSU channels online communication

CSU representatives got direct and personal with student media.

By Micayla Vermeeren
Staff Writer

A web conference between the California State University system and student media on Friday allowed both parties to discuss shared concerns between all 23 universities.

Three CSU representatives shared information on the upcoming year's budget, student fees and labor relations.

Ryan Storm, the CSU Assistant Vice Chancellor for Budget, kicked off the conference by delving into the details of both this year's and 2016-17's budgets.

Budgets for the CSU campuses have been in a precarious situation in recent years, but Storm highlighted the impact of Gov. Jerry Brown's reallocation of funds to support higher education.

"The governor has been very mindful that the board has the responsibility to really make those tough, critical planning decisions," Storm said.

Gov. Brown's plan was originally implemented in 2013, and has already recuperated about 80 percent of the funds that were cut in the

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READY for disaster

The residents of Long Beach gathered at Heartwell Park to learn how to prepare for the worst.

BY ALEX BERMAN
Staff Writer

Five firemen approached a worn-down, '90s Ford sedan parked in the grass and immediately began breaking windows and chopping it to pieces with the Jaws of Life.

As part of READY Long Beach, emergency response teams and city safety departments held demonstrations at Heartwell Park on Saturday in order to help community members become better prepared for real-life disasters.

"You can see that they waste no time in tearing through the car to get to the passengers inside, because in a real life scenario, even seconds count," said Jake Heflin, a firefighter and program manager for the Long Beach Community Emergency Response Team.

The exposition covered events that ranged from natural disasters like earthquakes, floods and storms to diseases, viruses and even terrorism.

David Ashman, manager of the Disaster Preparedness Bureau, said that Long Beach has never been the victim of a terrorism act, but that it still has the potential to be a target due to the city's ports.

Attendees at READY Long Beach said that attending the expo better prepared them and their families in the event that something unexpected happens.

Officials also helped prepare families to look for more common occurrences and avoid starting larger disasters.

"[An official] showed us the dial to look at when checking for gas leaks, and we never knew about that," said Sharon Urbano, a mother and Long Beach resident. "We probably would have ran right out to turn the gas off if an earthquake happened. He's saying not to do that, to check for a leak instead and taught us how to read our own gas meter."

The event hosted a multitude of booths run by local agencies like the Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Communications Department, survival gear vendor Searchlight Surplus and Survival, woman's protection vendor Damsel in Defense, the Long Beach Transit Co, the Air Force and Long Beach Search and Rescue.

Event coordinators offered entertainment for children alongside the useful and necessary safety information for adults, creating a zombie walk where children could dress up like the undead and receive instructions on how to survive a zombie apocalypse, should one ever arise.

Although READY Long Beach is only in its second year, both the public turnout and overall size of the event had grown noticeably since its inception in 2014, Heflin said. Around 200 people were in attendance this year.

"We knew that as a community, we needed to take a more proactive step to increase readiness and resiliency," Heflin said. "So last year, as an initiative, the Long Beach Fire Department got together and said we need to do something that's really going to bring this effort to light, so we launched our first READY Long Beach event… and as we look at todays event as it relates to last year, we've doubled in size, so we know this is really touching on an unmet need."

CONFERENCE

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past, Storm said.

Storm said that one of the most important aspects of university budgeting is the ability for each individual campus to make specific decisions on where to move funds on an annual basis.

Storm predicted that the additional government funding will last through at least 2019, if not later.

Laurie Weidner, CSU assistant Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs, also addressed the ongoing faculty salary negotiations between the CSU system and the California Faculty Association.

Between Sept. 8-9, the CSU offices in Long Beach moderated a forum between the Board of Trustees and faculty representatives on the topic of pay increase.

The CFA is requesting a 5 percent total increase on salaries, while the CSU system has only offered a 2 percent increase.

CFA representatives argued that the current salaries being offered to professors and other faculty fall below the needed income to maintain a middle-class lifestyle.

The September meeting did not yield any concrete decisions, so both parties will return to the offices on Oct. 8 to lobby further and attempt to reach an agreement, Weidner said.

Kelsey Brewer, a CSU student trustee, raised discussion about the new $2 Student Involvement and Representation Fee in an attempt to rally support for the optional addition to student tuition.

According to the California State Student Association website, the SIRF fee goes directly towards supporting the CSSA in its attempts to become independent from the CSU system.

The online mission statement also says that it dedicates efforts to ensuring that students in the system have a place in internal policy making, keeping the most affected voices heard.

Brewer said that without the fee, the input of student representatives could be at a very high risk.

As of now, the CSSA is a branch of the Chancellor's Office. CSSA representatives want to sever such direct ties with the office so that any opinions that go against the CSU have more weight and potential to become reality.

The SIRF fee is not mandatory, with an opt-out available to all students, but Brewer noted the importance of making CSSA an independent entity to protect the integrity of student decisions.

Correction:
In Thursday's article on the President's Scholar's program titled "Town hall to discuss changes to President's Scholars program," a quote from President Jane Conoley should have been attributed to a letter posted on the program's website.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Hoping for hire

BY JOHN GILL-AGUILAR
Contributing Writer

Students at California State University, Long Beach swarmed the University Student Union on Thursday, waiting in long lines for a chance to hand out their resumes to employers and recruiting professionals.

The university's annual Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Job and Internship Fair gave students an opportunity to meet and speak with potential employers from those career fields.

Over 70 employers attended the event including organizations and companies such as NASA, Boeing, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Chevron and Facebook.

Reena Hooda, a university recruiter for Facebook, said that the company was one of the most popular employers among students. Hooda said that recruiting for Facebook is the most competitive.

"We truly hire the best of the best," Hooda said. "Because we hire such a diverse population, everyone's coming in with different experience from different parts of the world. You're surrounded every day by some of the smartest people you've ever met in your life and that pushes you to want to do better and to want to do more."

The Career Development Center puts on the STEM fair every year at CSULB. Prior to the Job and Internship Fair, the Career Development Center also helped to prepare students by organizing resume writing and interview preparation workshops.

"I'm hoping that students will just take advantage of the opportunity that there are employers here on the campus," said Terri Armstrong, communications coordinator for the Career Development Center. "For this to happen in the fall, we start planning right after graduation."

Recruiting CSULB students from diverse backgrounds was a priority for most employers, Armstrong said.

"Our school is well known for the fact that we have a very diverse student population and that's what appeals to a lot of employers because they want different students and various cultures represented on their teams," Armstrong said.

Hooda said that Facebook has been recruiting from the same universities and the STEM Job and Internship Fair was an opportunity to change things up.

"I think Silicon Valley is starting to look a little bit homogenous and we don't want it to," Hooda said. "We need more diversity in our workforce, and so we needed to change up the schools."

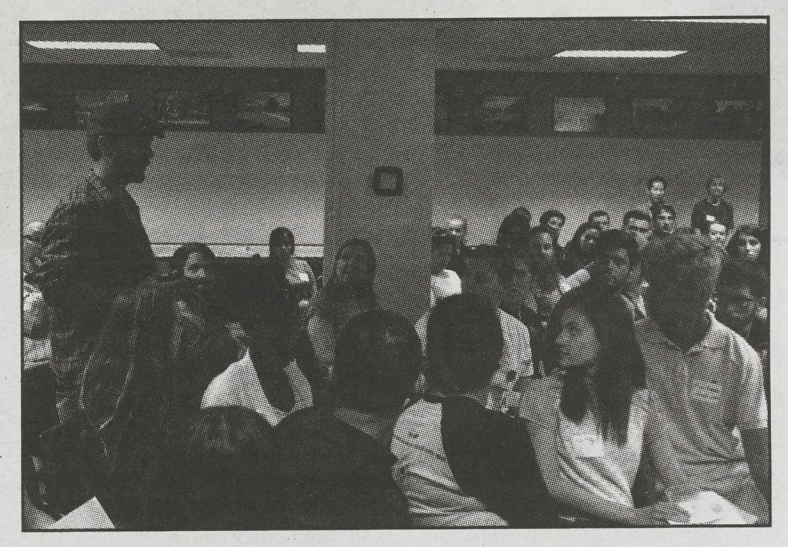
SCHOLARS
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cause it did not meet their needs at the time.

Alex Hodge-Wallis, a President's Scholars graduate from 2012, spoke about the difference between the two programs and said that the value in the program comes from the sense of community that the President's Scholars program offers.

"I worked for the Honors program for a year and a half," Hodge-Wallis said. "They are two very different programs, both culturally and academically. The Scholars program really is the foundation of our experience here, where the Honors program is an accessory."

Applicants for the President's Scholars program need to be qualifying valedictorians or National Scholars. Full payment of tuition, priority registration and paid on-campus housing are some of the benefits of being in the program.



GREG DIAZ | DAILY 49ER
Alex Hodge-Wallis, a president's scholar who graduated in 2012, raises his concerns about potential changes to the 20-year old program.

Additionally, many of the current and former president's scholars spoke about the opportunities that came about because of their involvement in the program, something that they don't want to see go away.

"[My concern is about] not having the same opportunities that the future scholars will have," said Dianne Asis, who was in the first President's Scholars class in 1995. "The opportunity to have a full ride, and that it is not based on financial need, that it's just based on academic performance."

Those benefits pushed junior nursing student Amanda Martinez to apply for the program this semester.

"As soon as I heard about it in ninth grade from a previous President's Scholar that was a family friend, I strived for this scholarship," Martinez said.

President Conoley assured current president's scholars that the promises that were made when they were selected would not be going away if the program does change.

President's Scholars Director Valerie Bordeaux said that while there are many rumors going around about what the future of the program will be like, nothing has been determined yet.

"The president is truly authentic when she says that she has not made up her mind," Bordeaux said. "We are in a process of re-envisioning. This is a part of the process – getting input."

Throughout the town hall, President Conoley and other administrators sat off to the side, taking notes about the concerns that the scholars had addressed.

Hodge-Wallis questioned whether some of the changes that may be coming to the program have already been decided.

"I hope she [President Conoley] hasn't, but part of me thinks that she has," Hodge-Wallis said. "I think her overall message demonstrates that she has made up her mind to some extent. That she wants to make a face of hearing us out, but that ultimately certain decisions have been made that she is not ready to admit."

Conoley said that she hopes that the changes can be minor but will depend on funding.

"I'm hoping, in my dream world, that we raise tons of money and very few things have to change," Conoley said. "On the other hand, the organizational problem of having thousands of high-achieving students remains one of my important presidential concerns."

Bordeaux said that no official changes about the program would be announced until November.

Sept. 21	Sept. 22	Sept. 23	Sept. 24	Sept. 25
10 - 11:30 a.m. **Officer Orientation Workshop** University Student Union 305	*11 a.m. to 3 p.m.* **Graduate and Professional Schools Fair** Speaker's Platform	*10 a.m.to 2 p.m.* **Farmers' Market** Friendship Walk	*all day* **Pop-up advising** Career Development Center	*2 - 3 p.m.* **"How To Use Student Media" Presentation** USU 205

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Knew Yorick? You didn't know Jack! ★★★½☆

Four Clowns new production is a mixed bag.

BY COLTON MAINES
Staff Writer



COURTESY OF ZACH STEEL | FOUR CLOWNS

(Left to right) Dave Honigman as Rosencrantz, Tyler Bremer as Guildenstern and Andrew Eiden as Hamlet in Four Clowns' rendition of Shakespeare's "Hamlet."

Combining Shakespearian diction with slapstick comedy à la Three Stooges, Four Clowns' production of "Hamlet" offers a unique take of the Bard's tragedy. Under the direction of CSULB alumni Turner Munch the seriocomic spoof has clowns playing the main roles.

An internationally touring troupe, Four Clowns was founded by Artistic Director and 2010 CSULB alumnus Jeremy Aluma and aims to explore and expand physical comedy and clowning techniques.

Many of the company's actors and directors met at CSULB in classes taught by former theatre professor Orlando Pabotoy as well as in The Clown School in Los Angeles.

Among the things to praise the play for is the way the characters engage the audience by interacting with them from the very start. Joe DeSoto, who plays the Ghost and Laertes, gives a hysterical performance, getting close to the audience with his mime act. There is also a fair amount of pantomime, meaning that the characters express their emotions and thoughts through physical comedy.

CSULB alumnus Andrew Eiden also gives a stirring performance as the hero Hamlet along with Tyler Bremer and Dave Honigman—also CSULB alumni—who play Guildenstern and Rosencrantz, respectively. The give their own spin to the roles by acting exclusively like clowns and dumb henchmen.

The play has a low-budget aesthetic, making use of simple but practical effects and costumes. A fusion of noble attire, with clothing you would find in the 1920's, adds a whimsical charm to the play.

The downside is that some of the jokes felt forced and hammed. Many of the jokes rely heavily on running gags. When they work, they really work, but others become slightly annoying and fall flat to the sound of crickets. While it might be funny to hear a line repeated three or four times, it gets a bit stale after the 10th or 15th time.

For example, the scene where Hamlet asks Guildenstern and Rosencrantz why they came to him is treated like a literal interrogation straight out of an American noir with a moving overhead lamp, dark room, to even the good cop/bad cop angle with Hamlet and Horatio.

Normally this would be a goldmine of comedic possibility to further reference the classic detective films, but all that happens is having them repeat the same question and answer over, and over, and over, and over, and over… expecting the audience to keep laughing.

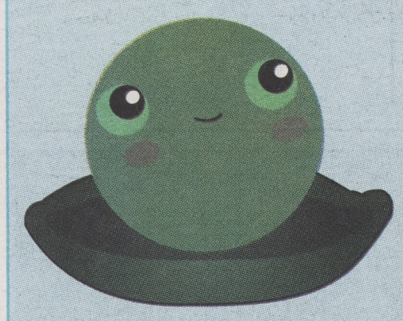
Overall, Four Clowns delivers a fresh take on a classic with enough gags and punch lines to make it worthwhile.

Shows run every Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. through Oct. 10 at the Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles.

Daily 49er introduces:

Dear Sweetpea,

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Write in and look for her advice in the Opinions section every Thursday.

To submit questions, please email dearsweetpea.daily49er@gmail.com



FESTIVAL
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"My wife and I came here for the music and to see the headliner Deer Tick," said Jackson. "But, now I don't feel so good. At least I get a pie a month for the next year."

Over on the Main Stage, Moonsville Collective woke up the sweaty crowd, who danced around to "California Good Time." The crowd took their simple lyrics and bluesy guitar riffs as an invitation, jumping up in front of the large stage to dance with each other for the entire set.

Upright bass player Seth Richardson has roots in Long Beach. His dad, "Dobro Dan" Richardson, plays slide guitar in Moonsville Collective and has been playing bluegrass music in the Long Beach for 40 years. While attending California State University, Long Beach in the late '60s, Dan would ride freight trains on the weekends and write music in his spare time.

"Even though the rest of us are all city slickers, we all love this music," Seth said. "We love going up to the Sierras and just jamming."

Headliners Deer Tick closed out the festival telling the crowd that they "haven't played this good of a show in awhile."



KEVIN FLORES | DAILY 49ER

Possessed By Paul James, who is also a special education teacher, performs his one-man show at the Long Beach Revival Festival Saturday afternoon on the Bose Stage.



Emmy Awards: For Viola Davis, taking pride but seeing the work ahead

When Viola Davis was cast last year to headline ABC's latest Shonda Rhimes-produced drama, "How to Get Away With Murder," she was clear about her motivations in taking the role: Davis wanted to finally be the show.

She certainly succeeded in helping others take note of her leading actress abilities — Davis is among the nominees vying for the lead actress in a drama trophy at the 67th Emmy Awards for her turn as mysterious law professor and defense attorney Annalise Keating in the thriller from Peter Nowalk.

An Oscar nominee for her supporting film work in 2008's "Doubt" and 2011's "The Help," Davis made the leap back to TV as part of the alphabet network's TGIT (Thank God it's Thursday) block alongside other dramas under Rhimes' Shondaland productions, "Grey's Anatomy" and "Scandal." (Davis previously costarred in the short-lived CBS drama "Century City.)

"How to Get Away With Murder," which returns Sept. 24 with its second season, opened big to 14.3 million viewers last September and averaged nearly 9 million viewers for the season.

We spoke to Davis about being part of the TGIT fold and not being concerned with likability.

Q: With one season behind you, how would you describe being part of Shondaland?

A: I feel at home in Shondaland. I feel a lot of things at Shondaland, but one of the things I feel that I haven't felt before is at home. I feel accepted for who I am and acknowledged for who I am. I feel like my ideas are embraced. And before I never quite felt like that. I've always felt like I was an actor for hire.

And almost apologetic for being a woman of color, trying to stifle that voice. But I don't feel that way in Shondaland. I feel like I am accepted into a world where I'm a part of the narrative — I'm a part of it.

Q: When we spoke ahead of the first-season launch, you said you were so excited by the opportunity to headline a show. But you were also terrified by it. Has that changed — the terrified part?

A: I still feel terrified. I always feel terrified whenever I put my work out there to be seen, to be scrutinized. I think it's a very vulnerable thing that we are asked to do.

But I will say that I feel a bit more confident now that the first season is under our belt. A bit more confident to just go for it. Turning 50 helped, you know, to just not be so afraid of failure that it stops you from taking risks. That's how I feel now. Still afraid, but definitely more confident in that fear — if that makes sense?

Q: Given all that, what does this Emmy nomination mean to you? And how are you feeling leading up to Emmy Sunday?

A: I feel better than I thought I'd feel. Awards absolutely threw me into a nervous frenzy. I don't know why.

It just feels like a mixed bag of feelings … . The thing is, you're under a microscope and people interpret everything. They interpret your facial reactions, they interpret what other people are saying about you coming into it. They put that on you. They put a lot of things on you. At the end of the day, I mean, we really love competition in this country. We really love awards. We really love people being considered the best of anything. When really, at the end of the day, in our profession, it means everything and nothing. As of Monday morning, everyone has to go back to work, win or lose.

Q: You made history with your nomination — along with Taraji P. Henson. It's the first time two African-American women have been nominated the same year for lead actress in a drama series. And if either of you win, it will be the first time an African-American woman takes home the Emmy in that top category. Is it hard to be proud of such achievements, given what it says about where we're still at in 2015?

A: No, and here's why: I think you can be proud of your achievement and also be acutely aware as to how far we still have to go. The thing is, the level of your opportunity cannot be seen as the same as your talent. I think the reason why a lot of actresses of color have not been recognized in that category is because we haven't had the opportunity to have lead roles. It's not that we don't have the talent. There's a huge talent pool out there, but, one, no one is writing those roles for TV. At best, you're No. 2 or No. 3. You're always authoritative or whatever — there's a certain kind of characteristic that is seen in narratives when black women are concerned. I'm always hoping this is just not a fluke — that this becomes the new norm: That it's no longer a big deal to see a woman of color in a lead role that doesn't necessarily scream "black actress." That we no longer need think pieces about what it means when those shows find a mainstream audience. I continue to root for all women, of course. I always feel, too, the responsibility, even when I play Annalise Keating — you do have to teach people how to see you.

Q: Talk more about that — the pigeonhole problem.

A: I'm constantly challenging Pete Nowalk — and I think he's a terrific person to collaborate with — but I'm always challenging the boundaries to where we can take Annalise in "How to Get Away With Murder." The boundaries of sexuality, the boundaries of just pathology.

To keep her a beautiful mess, just a beautiful mess. To challenge what people perceived women of color to be in the past. Women of a certain hue too, because you can't compare me to Taraji or Gabrielle Union or any of them. I'm a dark-skinned 50-year-old woman. So let's challenge her sexuality. Let's challenge what she would say, what she would do, how she might relate to the other characters. Let's do something completely off the walls but still rooted and grounded in some sort of reality. Let's just go for it.

—Yvonne Villarreal, Los Angeles Times, TNS

Playing the white collar blame game

Martha Giron Quijano
Contributing Writer

In elementary school, I remembered getting angry and pouting my way through a punishment that a teacher had put upon the whole class for the fault of one student. I remembered thinking as a child, "I didn't do anything wrong, so why should I get in trouble, too?"

Sadly, this is not any different from what is happening in the corporate world, where companies are held responsible for the misconduct of an individual.

On Sept. 9, the United States Department of Justice released a memo of new policies that will emphasize the prosecution of individual employees as opposed to penalizing whole companies.

It seems unfair to bring down the hammer on companies who may not have a clue about what employees are doing behind their desks. Although it would be difficult to determine whether or not the owners were in on the illegal activities without any physical proof, it would still be wise to have policies that ensure the protection of a company against individuals who can bring them down.

U.S. Deputy Attorney General Sally Q. Yates said that "it's only fair that the people who are responsible for committing those crimes be held accountable."

However, presidential candidate Hillary Clinton begs to differ, and said that if she were to be elected as the new president of the United States, she would prosecute both the individuals and the company, according an article The New York Times.

While it would seem ideal that everyone in affiliation with a company equally gets the blame, it does not teach anyone a thing about taking responsibility for their own actions. It basically lets the person who actually committed the crime say, "If I go down, you all go down with me and there's nothing you can do about it!"

Justice Department's new policies target individual employees.

Prior to the new policies, individuals who have violated the law have basically gotten away with white-collar crimes because the Justice Department failed to focus on who the real criminals are. Instead, they chose to punish the entire company for the mistake of one person, much like how my elementary school teacher would punish the entire class for the wrongdoing of one student.

Yates wrote in the memo that in order to save the company from paying billion dollar fines, they must cooperate with the government by identifying "employees and turn[ing] over evidence against them...regardless of their position, status, or seniority."

Even then, a company should not just be able to get a get-out-of-jail-free card by simply handing over their cash and assume that the problem will go away. Pay the fines, find the perpetrator. It should be as easy as that. A company is still responsible for whatever scandal comes their way if an employee of the company is still working within its sector. No matter what a person's position in the company, anyone who commits a criminal act should be held liable.

Companies often have their reputations tarnished or shut down because of their own employees who could not see the distinction between ethics and immorality. It should not have to be that way. The Justice Department is on the right track with implementing the new policies in order to catch the real perpetrators.

Even though the new and hopeful policies have been brought into the spotlight, it is not a guarantee that every white-collar crime across the country would be brought to justice. It does not mean that those who are on top of the corporate ladder could be easily prosecuted as their subordinates. The policies are simply the next step to repair the unjust system we currently have.

What does it mean to be poor in America?

According to the Census Bureau's new annual poverty report, 46.7 million Americans lived in poverty in 2014. This finding is surprising since government spent more than $1 trillion in 2014 on cash, food, housing, medical care, and targeted social services for poor and low income Americans. (That figure does not include Social Security or Medicare.)

More than 100 million people, or one third of the total population, received benefits from at least one anti-poverty program, at an average cost of $9,000 per recipient.

If converted into cash, this spending is five times the amount needed to lift everyone's income above poverty.

How can government spend that much money and still have more than 45 million people mired in poverty?

The answer is: It can't. The problem lies in the way the government measures poverty. The Census Bureau defines a household as poor if its "income" falls below specific thresholds. (In 2014 the poverty income threshold for a family of four was $24,008.)

But in counting "income," Census excludes nearly all welfare benefits. According to Census, food stamps, housing vouchers and refundable tax credit programs (which provide up to $7,500 per year in cash grants to poor families) are not "income." Of the $1 trillion government spends on anti-poverty programs, Census counts only about 7 percent as "income" for the purposes of measuring poverty.

It should, thus, be no great surprise that government's own data show the poor actually spend $2.30 for every $1.00 of income Census claims they have. In addition, the living standards of the poor (as defined by Census) differ greatly from conventional images. According to the government's own reports, the typical American defined as poor by the Census Bureau has a car, air conditioning and cable or satellite TV.

Half of the poor have computers, 43 percent have Internet, and 40 percent have a wide-screen plasma or LCD TV.

Far from being overcrowded, poor Americans have more living space in their home than the average non-poor person in Western Europe. Some 42 percent of all poor households actually own their own homes; on average, this is a well-maintained, three-bedroom house with one-and-a-half baths, a garage, and a porch or patio.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, only 4 percent of poor children were hungry for even a single day in the prior year because the family could not afford food.

The average consumption of protein, vitamins and minerals is virtually the same for poor and middle-class children, and in most cases is well above recommended norms. By his own report, the average poor person had sufficient funds to meet all essential needs and was able to obtain medical care for his family throughout the year whenever needed.

Of course, poor Americans do not live in the lap of luxury. Many of the poor struggle to make ends meet. But they are generally struggling to pay for cable TV, air conditioning and a car, while putting food on the table. Fortunately, claims of widespread deprivation in the U.S. are inaccurate.

But we should not judge the enormous welfare state merely by the volume of free benefits it distributes.

When President Lyndon Johnson launched the War on Poverty in 1964, he sought to decrease welfare dependence and to increase self-sufficiency: the ability of family to support itself above poverty without the need of government handouts. By that measure, the War on Poverty has been dismal failure. While self-sufficiency increased dramatically in the decades before the War on Poverty began, it has been at a standstill for the last 45 years, despite $24 trillion in anti-poverty spending.

We should reform welfare by resurrecting Johnson's original goal: increased self-sufficiency. The keys to improved self-sufficiency are work and marriage. To promote work, able-bodied recipients should be required to work or prepare for work as a condition of receiving aid.

Welfare programs should also be reformed to encourage, not penalize, marriage A welfare system reformed on these principles would be good for the poor, the taxpayer and society overall.

—By Robert Rector, The Heritage Foundation, TNS

GOT AN **OPINION?** | Let us know! **opedd49er@gmail.com**

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Letters Policy: All letters and e-mail must bear the phone number of the writer and must be no more than 300 words. The Daily 49er reserves the right to edit letters for publication in regard to space.

SOCCER

Road warriors

The 49ers picked up a win against the Blue Demons and a dramatic draw against Cincinnati.

By Josh Barajas
Sports Editor

Thanks to a last minute goal, the Long Beach State women's soccer team drew 2-2 against Cincinnati on Thursday, and then followed that up with a 1-0 win at No. 21 DePaul in Chicago on Sunday.

The Bearcats (5-2-2) dominated LBSU (5-2-3), outshooting them 17-8 and accumulating seven more corner kicks. Junior goalkeeper Ashton McKeown's eight saves kept the game close.

The 49ers were down 2-1 with 38 seconds left in the game when sophomore forward Victoria Bolden headed in the equalizer, forcing overtime. Both teams remained scoreless in extra time to end the match in a tie.

LBSU jumped on the board first in Cincinnati after freshman defender Alyssa Alvarez smashed her own rebound into the back of the net in the 34th minute.

Bearcats' forward Kelsey Parrinello answered 10 minutes later by getting on the end of a low cross to tie the game at one.

Cincinnati took a momentary lead on defender Kelly Latimer's penalty in the 72nd minute before the Bearcats allowed the last minute goal to Bolden.

The 49ers took the momentum from the draw against Cincinnati into Sunday's game against No. 21 DePaul (6-2-2).

Sophomore striker Ashley Gonzalez scored the only goal of the game in the 59th minute. After a handball in the box from a Blue Demon defender, Gonzalez stepped up to the penalty spot and slotted in her seventh career game-winning goal.

The win against DePaul was the 49ers' first win on the road this season, and their first overall since a 6-0 win against Portland State on Sept. 6.

After three weeks on the road, LBSU finally returns home to take on No. 8 BYU on Saturday at George Allen Field at 7 p.m.

WATER POLO

49ers finish sixth

The 49ers took on four ranked teams in tournament play this weekend.

By Kayce Contatore
Assistant Sports Editor

The No. 6 Long Beach State men's water polo team took home a sixth place finish in the Kap7 NorCal Tournament in Palo Alto over the weekend.

LBSU kicked off the weekend advancing into the top eight of the tournament by defeating No. 11 UC San Diego 11-6 on Saturday. Senior utility player Dimitrios Lappas scored a hat trick to lead the 49ers over the Tritons.

The 49ers tried to carry the momentum from the win into their match against No. 3 Stanford, but ultimately fell to the Cardinal 11-4.

Stanford dominated the match early, leading 4-0 at the half before the 49ers attempted to fight back, scoring their first goal in the third quarter. Despite LBSU's efforts, Stanford was able to match every point scored by the 49ers throughout the entire match.

On Sunday, it took three overtimes for the 49ers to take down No. 7 UC Irvine, 12-11.

LBSU had a 9-8 lead over the Anteaters late in the fourth quarter, but senior driver Jared Osborn scored the game-tying goal for Irvine with just 17 seconds left. Both teams traded points in the first two over-time sessions. In the third overtime, senior defender Zacchary Kappos scored the game-ending goal in sudden death.

The 49ers moved on to play for fifth place against No. 5 UC Santa Barbara. It was the third matchup with the Gauchos of the season; UCSB took the first game 7-6 on Sept. 5 and LBSU won the rematch 11-8 on Sept. 12.

UCSB had a 7-4 lead at the end of the second quarter and held back against a late 49er comeback to win 8-7. The 49ers finished in sixth place with a 2-2 record in the NorCal Tournament.

LBSU next takes on USC on Sept. 26 at the Uytengsu Aquatics Center in Los Angeles.

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WOMEN'S VOLLEY BALL

799 and counting for Gimmillaro

Long Beach State women's volleyball team takes two out of three over the weekend.

By Will Hernandez
Contributing Writer



Bobby Yagake | Daily 49er
LBSU junior outside hitter Nele Barber (6) looks as freshman outside hitter Carly Beddingfield (19) attempts to spike the ball toward the Bruins' side.

The Long Beach State women's volleyball team bounced back from a disappointing loss against UCLA on Friday night by sweeping Oregon State on Saturday, and adding another victory to head coach Brian Gimmillaro's record.

Gimmillaro came into the match against the Beavers with a 798-208 career record, the most wins by a head coach in LBSU history. With the 49ers beating Oregon State 3-0, Gimmillaro is now one win shy of 800.

"We'll think about [records] years from now," Gimmillaro said. "I didn't even know about [nearing 800 wins] until today and the 799 until right now."

The 49ers (10-3) opened up the weekend with a double-header against the same two opponents they faced last season in the NCAA tournament.

The Beach managed to hang on and defeat No. 21 San Diego (6-5) in five sets on Friday morning. But the 49ers ran out of gas later in the day in their rematch against No. 14 UCLA (9-1), falling 3-1. The 49ers defeated San Diego in the first round of last year's tournament before losing to UCLA in round two.

"I think we both played difficult matches this morning, so coming in here, you're not going to be at full strength and you just try to minimize errors," UCLA Head Coach Michael Sealy said. "Both teams took a lot of really good games and both had really bad stretches. Our team was able to capitalize on [LBSU's] mistakes."

In the first set, UCLA capitalized on the 49ers' mistakes. After cutting UCLA's lead to 19-17, the Bruins then went on their third run of the set to win 25-20.

The 49ers redeemed their first set miscues by coming out with more control in the second, jumping to a quick 4-1 lead that would hold until the end of the set. LBSU snapped UCLA's 12-set win streak by taking the second set 25-19.

"It's definitely intimidating, we know about how we faced them last year in the playoffs," LBSU freshman hitter Carly Beddingfield said. "We came back in the second set and had a lot of hope that we could pull it off but it really didn't go our way."

LBSU had some momentum, but with sophomore middle blocker Ashley Murray leaving the game with an abdominal injury, Gimmillaro said the 49ers didn't have enough.

"What are you going to do? When Ashley had to come out of the game, we had no more middles left," Gimmillaro said. "When you don't have [Annete Brinke], you don't have [Sheridan Atkinson] and now you don't have Ashley; you're not going to win without all three of them."

The Bruins took the final two sets to win 3-1.

Although the 49ers were missing Murray, junior outside hitter Nele Barber stepped up on Saturday to help LBSU bounce back from the loss.

Barber had a big hitting night, hammering down 16 kills and picking up 17 digs against Oregon State; good for her seventh straight double-double performance.

"I just try to stay calm on the court and push myself to get the points," Barber said. "Usually when I have pressure on me, I play better."

The Beavers put up some resistance in the second set, going up 18-13 at one point before the 49ers went on a 12-3 run to close out the set. Gimmillaro said he was shocked by how the 49ers were able to breeze through the match.

"I was surprised by how [Oregon State] was playing, because they're a good team and we thought that they would be [better]," Gimmillaro said. "We put some pressure on them and then there was some unusual play out there and then we did OK for not having Ashley [Murray]."

LBSU will look to pick up Gimmillaro's 800th victory in the conference opener against UC Davis on Friday night at the Walter Pyramid.

Top Performers

LBSU vs. San Diego

Nele Barber	Lisa Kramer
	
16 kills	21 kills
13 digs	9 digs
.204 hit %	.472 hit %

LBSU vs. Oregon State

Carly Beddingfield	Kory Chesire
	
13 kills	4 kills
2 digs	7 digs
.279 hit %	.400 hit %

LBSU vs. UCLA

Nele Barber	Jordan Anderson
	
16 kills	16 kills
17 digs	4 digs
.640 hit %	.279 hit %